

## Guide for Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations

On March 24, 2014, the Final Rule ([78 FR 77796](#)) titled “Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, and Changes to National Endorsements” became effective. This rule introduced changes to the subject matter tables that form the basis of the Merchant Marine Credentialing Examinations. The National Maritime Center (NMC) has developed a new [Deck and Engineering Guide for the Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations](#) that implements those changes.

During the transition period defined in [NVIC 02-14](#), Grandfathering and Transitional Provisions for Merchant Mariner Credentials, which provides for examination under the previous and current regulations, the NMC will maintain two Examination Guides and two sets of examination questions and illustrations to support mariners who are evaluated under the previous regulations and those who are evaluated under the new rule:

- A mariner seeking endorsement based on training or service started before March 24, 2014, will be examined under the regulations in effect before that date unless they have specifically requested examination for their endorsement under the Final Rule published by the Coast Guard on December 24, 2013, ([78 FR 77796](#)). Mariners examining under the previous regulations will be guided by the [Guide for Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations \(Deck & Engineering Guide\)](#), dated June 2011. (MCP-MA-NMC2-03 (09))
- A mariner seeking endorsement based on training or service started on or after March 24, 2014, will be examined under the requirements of the Final Rule published by the Coast Guard on December 24, 2013, ([78 FR 77796](#)). Mariners being examined under these regulations will be guided by the [Deck and Engineering Guide for the Administration of Merchant Marine Examinations](#), dated August 2014. (MCP-MA-NMC2-08 (01))

Deck and Engine examination questions and non-copyrighted illustrations are available on the [NMC website](#). These questions and illustrations will be separated based on whether testing under the previous regulation or under the current regulation. Additional information regarding the Examination Guide may be found on the [NMC website](#).

In order to maintain the examination system in place for those mariners testing under previous regulations until March 23, 2019, the NMC will be working to move those questions/modules into our new examination system. This will result in a change of module numbering but no major changes to examination content. We are targeting January 2015 for completion of this work.

Mariners and other providers should contact the Customer Service Center at [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil) or 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662) with any questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

/J. P. Novotny/  
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Captain, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commanding Officer